

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: US ZA XF

SUBJ: PRESIDENT KAUNDA REQUESTS INFORMATION ON MIDDLE EAST
SETTLEMENT

REF: LUSAKA 3015, STATE 217771, LUSAKA 3007

1. SUMMARY: ISRAELI ENVOY, ECHUDA AVRIEL, HAS MET WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA, PRESENTED ISRAEL'S POSITION ON MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT (WHICH EXCLUDED A PALESTINIAN STATE), AND PRESIDENT KAUNDA WOULD LIKE GUIDANCE WE COULD PROVIDE BEFORE HE SEES THE ENVOY AGAIN AT 1930 LOCAL TONIGHT. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR MARK CHONA CALLED ME TO STATE HOUSE THIS MORNING TO DISCUSS PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S MEETING WITH ECHUDA AVRIEL (DESCRIBED AS AN ENVOY FROM DAYAN). CHONA SAID MEETING HAD BEEN USEFUL IN TERMS OF HIS AND PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S APPRECIATION OF THE ELEMENTS OF A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. HOWEVER, THERE WERE POINTS PRESENTED BY AVRIEL WHICH HAD SURPRISED THE PRESIDENT AND LEFT HIM CONFUSED. CHONA ASKED IF HE COULD HAVE SOME CLARIFICATION OF THESE POINTS BEFORE KAUNDA MET AGAIN WITH AVRIEL THIS EVENING.

2. AVRIEL TOLD KAUNDA, MUCH TO THE PRESIDENT'S SURPRISE, THAT THE QUESTION OF A SEPARATE PALESTINIAN STATE WAS NOT ON THE
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AGENDA FOR THE CAMP DAVID SUMMIT. EGYPT WOULD NOT RAISE THE QUESTION AND NEITHER WOULD ISRAEL. THE ISRAELI POSITION IS THAT THERE ALREADY EXISTS A PALESTINIAN STATE AND IT IS JORDAN.

3. ISRAEL WILL HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE PLO AS LONG AS ARAFAT IS ITS LEADER. ARAFAT IS A "MURDEROUS TERRORIST." IN RESPONSE TO A CHONA QUESTION, AVRIEL SAID ISRAEL MIGHT CHANGE

ITS ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE PLO IF ARAFAT WAS ELIMINATED FROM THE SCENE.

4. AVRIEL SAID THAT THE CEMP DAVID MEETING WOULD FOCUS ON THE STATUS OF GAZA AND THE WEST BANK OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. DISCUSSIONS WOULD CENTER AROUND A FORM OF AUTONOMY FOR THESE TWO AREAS AND WOULD CONSIDER SUCH MATTERS AS THE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT OF EGYPTIANS, PALESTINIANS AND ARABS IN THEM. IT WOULD BE HOPED THAT AUTONOMY WOULD PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT WOULD TAKE PLACE. CONSEQUENTLY AFTER FIVE YEARS, THE PEOPLE OF THE GAZA STRIP AND THE WEST BANK WOULD LOSE INTEREST IN THE IDEA OF AN INDEPENDENT STATE.

5. CHONA SAID THAT HE AND THE PRESIDENT TRIED TO MAKE THE ARGUMENT THAT THE CENTERS OF POWER IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND THIS INCLUDED THE PLO, MUST BE INCLUDED IN A SETTLEMENT OR IT WOULD NOT WORK. THIS WAS REJECTED BY AVRIEL, AS FAR AS THE PLO WAS CONCERNED, AND HE FELL BACK TO DESCRIBING THE PLO ADHERENTS AS MURDEROUS TERRORISTS. THIS DID NOT GO DOWN WELL WITH EITHER THE PRESIDENT OR CHONA, SINCE IT COULD HAVE BEEN "VORSTER TALKING ABOUT SWAPO OR SMITH ABOUT MUGABE."

6. COMMENT: WE RECOGNIZE THAT IT MAY NOT EITHER BE PHYSICALLY POSSIBLE OR EVEN DESIRABLE AT THIS DELICATE STAGE TO PROVIDE
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PRESIDENT KAUNDA WITH ANY INFORMATION, CLARIFYING WHETHER OR NOT A SEPARATE PALESTINIAN STATE WILL BE ON THE CAMP DAVID AGENDA. HOWEVER, IF THERE IS ANYTHING WE COULD PASS TO HIM WHICH WOULD BETTER PREPARE HIM FOR HIS MEETING WITH AVRIEL THIS EVENING, IT WOULD BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED AND QUITE POSSIBLY PUT TO GOOD USE.
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